

What is claimed is:

1. Imparting a texture to a hearing instrument shell.
2. A method of fabricating a hearing instrument, comprising:
  - 5 fabricating a shell comprising an outer surface; and
  - imparting a texture to at least a portion of the outer surface of the shell.
3. A method as set forth in claim 2, where imparting a texture comprises imparting a non-smooth texture.
- 10 4. A method as set forth in claim 2, where imparting a texture comprises imparting a non-reflective finish.
5. A method as set forth in claim 2, where imparting a texture
  - 15 comprises blasting the surface with an abrasive or grit, or applying ultraviolet light, laser, infrared heat, hot air, or another heat source to the surface.
- 20 6. A method as set forth in claim 2, where:

fabricating a shell comprises fabricating a series of layers; and  
imparting a texture comprises applying waveforms to the edges of  
one or more of the layers during the process of fabrication.

5           7.     A method as set forth in claim 2, where:

fabricating a shell comprises fabricating a mold cavity derived from  
surface contours of the user's ear; and

imparting a texture comprises modifying the mold cavity to create a  
texture in the outer surface.

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8.     Imparting a texture to an outer surface of a hearing  
instrument.

9.     A method of fabricating a hearing instrument, comprising:

15    fabricating an outer surface; and

imparting a texture to at least a portion of the outer surface.

10.    A method as set forth in claim 9, where imparting a texture  
comprises imparting a non-smooth texture.

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11.    A method as set forth in claim 9, where imparting a texture

comprises imparting a non-reflective finish.

12. A method as set forth in claim 9, where imparting a texture  
comprises blasting the surface with an abrasive or grit, or applying  
5 ultraviolet light, laser, infrared heat, hot air, or another heat source to the  
surface.

13. A method as set forth in claim 9, where:  
fabricating a shell comprises fabricating a series of layers; and  
10 imparting a texture comprises applying waveforms to the edges of  
one or more of the layers during the process of fabrication.

14. A method as set forth in claim 9, where:  
fabricating a shell comprises fabricating a mold cavity derived from  
15 surface contours of the user's ear; and  
imparting a texture comprises modifying the mold cavity to create a  
texture in the outer surface.

15. A method of fabricating a hearing instrument, comprising:  
20 fabricating a shell comprising an outer surface; and  
imparting a texture to at least a portion of the outer surface of the

2001P16282US

shell, where imparting a texture comprises

blasting the surface with an abrasive or grit; or

applying ultraviolet light, laser, infrared heat, hot air, or  
another heat source to the surface.

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16. A method of fabricating a hearing instrument, comprising:

fabricating a shell as a series of layers; and

imparting a texture to at least a portion of the outer surface of the  
shell,

10 where imparting a texture comprises

applying waveforms to the edges of one or more of the  
layers during the process of fabrication; or

blasting the surface with an abrasive or grit; or

applying ultraviolet light, laser, infrared heat, hot air, or  
15 another heat source to the surface.

17. A method of fabricating a hearing instrument, comprising:

fabricating a mold cavity derived from surface contours of the user's  
ear; and

20 modifying the mold cavity to create a texture comprising

a series of lines, equally or unequally spaced; or

2001P16282US

a plurality of regular or irregular repeating shapes; or  
a predetermined or randomly generated pattern.